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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**June 29, 2000**

## **Border Patrol Agents seize over two million dollars of cocaine at the San Clemente Checkpoint**

**San Clemente, California:** On June 29, 2000 at approximately 10:45 a.m., Border Patrol Agents encountered a white, 1979, Mercedes Benz 300D sedan at the Interstate 5 traffic checkpoint. When the driver, a naturalized United States citizen born in Tijuana, BC, Mexico, approached primary inspection, he stopped his vehicle before reaching the Agent's position. The Agent motioned for the vehicle to move forward to the primary inspection area in order to perform an immigration inspection. When the driver was questioned concerning his citizenship he stated that he was born in Mexico but was a naturalized citizen of the United States. While being questioned by Agents concerning the ownership of the vehicle the driver became nervous and started to visibly shake while claiming the vehicle belonged to his boss. The driver was then directed to secondary inspection for further investigation.

While in secondary the driver was again questioned as to his citizenship and ownership of the vehicle. The driver claimed to be a United States citizen and this time stated the vehicle belonged to his uncle. Agents asked for and received permission to search the vehicle. While agents were searching the vehicle they noticed that the driver began pacing in a nervous manner. The agents then asked for and were granted permission to search the vehicle with a K-9. During the search of the interior of the vehicle the K-9 alerted to the odor of narcotics in the dashboard area. The ensuing search revealed a total of 20 bundles of cocaine weighing approximately 63 pounds, with a street value of \$2,022,400.00.